

July 9, 1865

Lincoln

To. Honble

Gen. J. Speed
City General U.S.

Sir

I, trust I shall not be deemed intrusive or immodest in submitting the following statement, somewhat personal to myself.

I, was a Member of the Virginia Convention, which passed the Ordinance of Secession, was one of the 55 who opposed the passage of the same, and among the first to assemble in Convention at Wheeling and urge the restoration of the government of my native State, I supported the formation of the State of West Virginia, for all of which acts I, was denounced and driven from my home at midnight in the beginning of the war by a dash of sixty of the Confederate Cavalry, narrowly escaping with my life. The Editor of the Richmond Enquirer in reference to which occurrence remarked "The execrable and damnable Randall escaped

Our Cavalry by a hands breadth, had they caught him they would have spent no time guarding him."

Soon after which I was sent ^{to} Washington enclosed by nearly every member of the body of delegates that brought about the restoration of the ^{State} Government, together with letters from Governor Pierpont, Hon. J. S. Calhoun and others, all earnestly desiring my appointment as Marshall for the then Western District of Va. To, the surprise of myself and 19/20th of the people of West Virginia the office was conferred on the present incumbent, To which disappointment I gracefully submitted, and accepted an appointment in the U.S. Army, having just closed on honorable service of field duty for upwards of three years with the Army of the Potomac, as a Commissary of Subsistence with the rank of Captain, being the only member of the 35. Negative votes Against the Secession Ordinance that consented to serve the Country in the military line, which service may I not

~~fully~~ Cluin to add to the record of the
past life of loyalty, and devotion to Country,
I also had an honorable service of six years
in the State Legislature of Virginia.

Mr. Norton the present
Incumbent of the Office, urged his Claims
for the appointment, solely on the ground that
he had been the especial friend of Mr. Lincoln,
had attended the Chicago Convention &c.

I have constantly supported Mr. Lincoln and
his Administration as a duty to my Country,
and as a Member of West Virginia voted
to emancipate ^{and free} all the slaves of the State
and in a published Circular, during a Con-
-test a Campaign for a seat in Congress, I exp-
-ressed the desire that the war would not
end till it ended slavery.

I do not propose the removal of Mr. Norton,
but it having ^{been} intimated to me, that he has
not infrequently expressed dissatisfaction with
the amount of salary connected with the
Office, talking of resigning &c, and perhaps
would do so if allowed to indicate a
Successor, in the person of his Deputy of

doubtful loyalty, — The correctness of
 regarding his hints of resignation, I only
 learn from others, but his Complaints as to
 leanness of salary is well authenticated,
 Now I have this to say, and most respectfully
 that in the contingency of a change in the
 office, by resignation or otherwise, that my
 claims be fairly considered, and should
 I, ever be so fortunate as to receive the appointment,
 and, every, Editor of a paper, most of the
 public men, and the popular voice of West
 Virginia, ~~that~~ ^{do not} approve, I would feel
 it my duty to at once resign the office
 For the truth of what I here state, allow
 me to refer you to Gov: F. H. Pierpont, Judges
 J. J. Jackson, Hon. B. Blair, & others, of West
 Va. — My application of a former date
 must be on file in your dept.

Very Respectfully
 Geo. S. Russell

Rec^d July 19. 1865

to Capt. Wendell

Application for U. S.
Mar. West Virginia
Lands recommendations

I have known Captain
Wendell for some years &
take much pleasure in
bearing my testimony to his
loyalty & services in the
Army as well as to his worth
as a gentleman; & I take the
liberty of expressing the hope
that if the necessary should
occur which he seems to
think probable, the other
very general way in which
compatible with his sense
of public duty to confer
the appointment upon him.

June 15th 1865

Respectfully

Wm M A S O H

I fully concur in the above recom-
mendation.
June 23 1865.

Serge Lemond
Judge of the Circuit of
West Virginia